

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Research

Jane Austen is a famous writer who has written many great masterpieces, such as, *Pride and Prejudice*, *Mansfield Park*, *Emma*, *Northanger Abbey*, *Sense and Sensibility*, and *Persuasion*. Those are some examples of her novels which are believed by many critics that those do not only explore feminist awareness but also draw the readers' attention on economic and social system which rule in the Britain at that time.

Austen's last novel, *Persuasion*, was published in 1818, one year following her premature death at the age of forty-one. She knew she was dying, and raced against time and declining strength to complete *Persuasion*, the novel consisting of the character considered to be most like Jane herself - the plain but clever Anne Elliot. Her brother, Henry Austen, arranged for the publication of her last two novels after her death. Only then did people become aware of the author of these popular works of literature. All the novels published during her lifetime had been published anonymously.

The novel opens with Sir Walter Elliot spoiling his snobbishness by once again taking up the Baronetage. Sir Walter is a widower with three daughters, Elizabeth, the oldest, Anne, and Mary the youngest.

A more immediate problem compresses on Sir Walter, as he has been running up the nineteenth-century equivalent of massive debt, and he must discover a way to 'cut back', to dial down his expensive lifestyle, before he goes bankrupt.

Sir Walter Elliot and Elizabeth Elliot apparently do not have any intention to reduce their unnecessary expenses since Lady Elliot's death. They keep saying that they are blameless for the bankruptcy.

Lady Russell and Anne come up with a new budget for the Elliot family, but Sir Walter and Elizabeth cannot conceive of living the simple life. Sir Walter himself unwittingly suggests the solution, leaving the Kellynch Hall for cheaper expenses.

Anne wants to stay in the neighbourhood and hates the town of Bath, but Sir Walter decides to leave the neighbourhood and live in Bath. At least, Lady Russell is contented. Lady Russell has a hidden motive, Elizabeth has been getting close with Mrs. Clay, and Lady Russell wants to break up the pair up before they become closer.

Sir Walter's lawyer, Mr. Shepherd, proposes an admiral as an ideal tenant. England's war with Napoleon's France has just ended, so there are plenty of naval officers coming ashore and looking to spend their war treasure. Sir Walter thinks any ungenerous rich admiral should consider very fortunate indeed to score Sir Walter's own the Kellynch Hall. Mrs. Clay convinces Sir Walter Elliot

that any naval officer would take good care not only of the house but also might do a little gardening; Sir Walter Elliot, however, wants to keep his shrubberies to himself.

Anne makes her first contribution to the conversation, speaking up for the naval profession and saying they have an equal claim to a home. Sir Walter clarifies his double hostility to naval men, first, some of them have obtained high rank through personal success, and thus take standard over Sir Walter himself when his father could beat their father (in social standing, at least); and second, they look all old and ugly and stuff. Mrs. Clay responds that any job has its health dangers, and really one can only keep looking young and healthy if one is rich enough not to have to work. All this talk of admirals is not for nothing, for soon a real life Admiral by the name of Croft gets a lot of money in the post war for renting the Kellynch Hall. Sir Walter Elliot thinks better of the idea upon learning that Admiral Croft comes from a gentlemanly family and is not frightening.

Anne chimes in with more detail on the Admiral's background and accomplishments, but Sir Walter Elliot's more interested in his appearance. Mr. Shepherd points out that Admiral Croft would make a great tenant because he is willing to pay high rent. Sir Walter, with support from Elizabeth, makes a decision that an Admiral is just the thing for a tenant, as the title sounds remarkable while still remaining firmly inferior to Sir Walter Elliot.

While the Crofts are total strangers to the Elliots, it turns out Mrs. Croft's brother, Captain Wentworth, is not. In fact, eight years ago Wentworth and the middle Elliot daughter, Anne, after dating for a few months, they were already talking marriage. Wentworth's service in the navy, however, did not give him enough steady income or social status to please Anne's family and her god mother, Lady Russell. Eventually Lady Russell persuaded Anne to break it off with Wentworth, and Anne has been kicking herself ever since.

Not long after that, William Elliot, Sir Walter Elliot's cousin who is a widow and inherited lots of wealth from his late wife shows up at the Elliot estate. It would not be a good idea for young William, as he is committed not one but two sins against the current regime. Not only he had turned down Elizabeth but also he then went on to marry a woman who had a lot of money but no class, a cardinal sin for rank-obsessed Sir Walter.

Back in the present, Anne's snobby father, Sir Walter Elliot, her equally snobby older sister Elizabeth, and Mrs. Clay head off to the fashionable town of Bath where they can show off more cheaply than at home. Anne goes to stay first with Lady Russell, and then with the youngest of Sir Walter Elliot's daughters, Mary, who is married with two children to Charles Musgrove.

Meanwhile, Wentworth has struck it rich, but has never gotten back in touch. During this time, Anne Elliot reacquainted with him after Mr. and Mrs. Croft become the tenant of the Kellynch Hall.

Things start to get more awkward when Captain Wentworth comes to visit his sister at the Kellynch Hall. Not only is he still angry at Anne for dumping him, but also he is doing some intense flirting with her cousin-in-law, Louisa Musgrove to make Anne jealous.

One day, Anne and the Musgroves go to the nearby seaside village of Lyme Regis with Wentworth to visit his old friend Captain Harville. They get to meet Harville's cheerful family and his depressed friend, Captain Benwick, who is working through the death of his fiancée by reading the saddest poetry he can find. Everything runs awkwardly to both Anne Elliot and Frederick Wentworth until Louisa tries to show off by leaping off a staircase into Wentworth's arms, but instead takes a headfirst dive into the pavement. While everyone else is shocking, Anne keeps her brains and gets Louisa medical attention.

Louisa stays in bed at Lyme with the Harvilles to avoid knocking her brain about any further, while Anne goes with Lady Russell to see what her father and sister have been up to in Bath. It turns out they have been making friends with one William Elliot. Mr. Elliot is going to inherit Kellynch Hall and the family title when Sir Walter dies as he has no son who can inherit his baronetcy.

William Elliot is a rich widower after his rich late wife passed away. Long time absence after he decided to marry his late wife who does not a high class citizen, now he comes back and gets along with the Elliots well. Elizabeth has her eye on Mr. Elliot, in spite of his having blown her off before, but Anne is the

one he is interested in. Anne attends boring rounds of parties where her family humiliates her by sucking up to the next rank above them on the social ladder.

Finally, she gets a letter from her sister Mary that Louisa is getting married not with Captain Wentworth but Captain Benwick. She is both shocked and happy to hear the fact. She thinks that Frederick Wentworth is the one who will marry Louisa. Undeniably, she still hopes he will be back to her and she is the one whom Frederick Wentworth will get married with.

In an occasion, Wentworth and Anne cross paths again at a concert, where Anne realizes that Wentworth is still madly in love with her and jealous of Mr. Elliot.

The next time Anne and Wentworth have an opportunity to exchange meaningful glances with each other, as star-crossed lovers tend to do, Anne tries to send him some signals that he should propose again. Apparently some of her signals get through, as Wentworth leaves her a note that basically says if she still loves him because he still loves her very much after years pass by. Soon after, they run into each other on the street and finally manage to get all their misunderstandings sorted out and as it turns out, neither Sir Walter nor Elizabeth object much, since Wentworth has risen in the world even as the Elliots has dropped.

Anne's mainly worried about Lady Russell and how she will take the giant "I told you so" of her marriage to Wentworth, but Lady Russell is fortunately more concerned with seeing Anne happy than hanging on to a sense of her own righteousness. Mary is also happy enough with the marriage, so long as she can still look down on Anne because her sister does not have a landed estate to look forward to. Elizabeth, however, is not so much with the being pleased, especially as Mr. Elliot leaves Bath soon after Anne does. However, he does not go off alone: he takes Mrs. Clay with him to keep her away from Sir Walter, though the narrator speculates that she might have the last laugh by getting Mr. Elliot to marry her, and thus becoming Lady Elliot that way. Sir Walter and Elizabeth are not pleased to find out they were duped by Mrs. Clay, and miss having someone around to tell them how wonderful they are. Anne's only problem now is wishing she had a better social circle to merge with Captain Wentworth's; while neither of them want much to do with her immediate family, Lady Russell and Mrs. Smith step up and become good friends of them both. Wentworth even deals with Mrs. Smith's neglected property in the West Indies, and Mrs. Smith manages to stay cheerful, despite becoming much richer than before. And so Anne and Wentworth live happily ever after, with only the possibility of future wars (Wentworth is still a naval captain, after all) to worry about.

The story ends up with a happy ending after Frederick Wentworth and Anne Elliot, finally get married.

Many critics say that Jane Austen is outdated and clichéd. However, her works obviously maintain an undying appeal. Jane Austen's novels are acknowledged by critics and readers alike. Each of her novels, written in the early nineteenth century, can authentically be described as a literary masterpiece.

Because of the undying great appreciation to her works, the writer of the thesis is interested in investigating one of Jane Austen's novels, entitled *Persuasion*. *Persuasion* is Jane Austen's last completed novel, published after her death in 1817.

By regarding that Jane Austen is very good at exposing social and economic issues and marriage as patriarchal institution of entrapment, the researcher is attracted to unveil more deeply about the novel on those aspects.

There are three important points of the novel which attract the writer of the thesis to analyze it deeply. Those are its social background of the British nineteenth century, the relation of the social background of the British society and novel's production on the characters' changes of lifestyles, thoughts and women's right to choose spouses.

To analyze those three points which interests the researcher most, the thesis will be divided into four dimensions.

First, the background of production will at glance be talked to give clear background about the situation of Britain at that time which connects to the social mobility and struggle of feminism occurred in the novel. The real situation



in Britain in the nineteenth century in all aspects of life such as economic, social, politic, culture, etc. will be the focus of the first dimension.

The second dimension will scrutinize the social mobility in the novel. This dimension will tell about the social class division before the social mobility, the types and causes of social mobility and its effects to human lifestyles and thoughts. The obvious subject of *Persuasion* is it highlights the issues of class mobility (the changing social order). The characters in *Persuasion* are trying to adapt to a society in which class boundaries are more open than they used to be. *Persuasion* tells about the changing of social class of the main characters. Frederick Wentworth, the male main character was an ordinary people of the middle class. He was only a poor naval officer so that Anne Elliot broke their engagement when she was nineteen years old and lived in prosperity as a rich baronet.

However, the situation changed in eight years later. Wentworth comes to Kellynch Hall (Anne's house) as a successful and rich naval officer. He becomes a mature and confident person.

In contrast, the Elliots has to let its house to Captain Croft for rent because of a bankruptcy.

The movement of social class system which involves both upward mobility and downward mobility makes the writer of this thesis is interested in analyzing the effects caused by the class mobility to each characters in the point of view of the changes of thoughts and attitudes in their social life. The analysis will

especially focus on the minor characters' changing opinion about Frederick Wentworth and how they appreciate him.

The third dimension will investigate the influence of the social background of British society to feminist struggle of *Persuasion*'s heroine, Anne Elliot to get her right to choose spouses. It will investigate the process of Anne's maturity through her bitter experience against the marriage at the equal class-person. Starting from living in a deep regret to struggling for her right to defend her love of life are the things being observed here. *Persuasion* is a fascinating novel with a heroine whom the readers might watch grow into maturity. The readers will observe both her failings and strengths. In *Persuasion*, parental influence and social etiquette play a major role in the life of protagonist Anne Elliot who finds herself persuaded out of a marriage to Captain Wentworth as a young nineteen year old girl by Lady Russell who disapproves of his poverty. It is clear that both Anne and Captain Wentworth have harbored feelings for each other in the eight and a half years they were separated and are eventually united again. One of the major questions that arise in *Persuasion* is whether persuasion has the ability to overcome passion. Out of the many Austen's novels, this is perhaps the one where the passion and true emotions of the two lovers can truly be felt. The parental and social etiquette influence of choosing a spouse and the struggle done by Anne Elliot and other female characters become the third prior discussion of this thesis. The novel offers the same strong character as the other Jane Austen's novels. Anne Elliot's desire to remain spinster in the age of 27 at

the nineteenth century, which is supposed to be married at that age, encourages the writer to see how she struggle for her right to choose her spouse. She keeps her faith to dedicate herself to someone she loves although she has to wait for him until eight years passes by.

The fourth dimension will be the relation between Jane Austen's *Persuasion* and its British real context in the nineteenth century. It will directly investigate the sociological impacts of the Britain society to the novel's production. It will scrutinize how brilliant Jane Austen, as the writer of the novel, makes use of the social phenomena to convey her opinions on the social mobility and against the ruling values in Britain in the nineteenth century.

In the present article written by Ni Komang Arie Suwastini in 2011 , *The Interplaying of Feminist Issues in the Adaptation of Jane Austen's novels in America in the 1990s-2000s*, five globally marketed theatre releases of the adaptations are reviewed to see how feminisms in Jane Austen's novels. In her article she declares *Persuasion* also exposes the heroine struggles for women consciousness. There are many sides of the female characters of the novel version which can be analyzed from the point of view of feminism. It inspires the writer of the thesis to find out the heroines' struggle to fight for feminism, especially from the point of their right for choosing spouses. *Persuasion* is the more difficult to undertake, and this version is as successful as one of Austen's neatly arranged marriages.

In a novel with many unmarried and young woman, marriage is naturally an important theme. The central premise behind the novel is the thwarted engagement between the heroine and hero, Anne and Captain Wentworth. Although they are very much in love, the marriage is judged imprudent from a financial perspective. Much of the narrative builds up a weighty force against such a judgment, suggesting that somewhat imprudent marriages can still lead to happiness. This is a conclusion that is stated explicitly at the end by Mrs. Musgrove and Mrs. Croft. At the same time, the novel also deals with of marriages (or hopes of marriage) that have no purpose other than the social or financial benefit of one party. Such is the case of Mr. Elliot and his first wife, for example, or Mrs. Clay's desire to marry Sir Walter. In a society in which family plays such an important role, marriage is necessarily a complicated negotiation.

There are several Jane Austen's novels which are produced into TV novel adaptation as a tribute to her great contribution to the literary works over the centuries. The first novel adaptation is *Mansfield Park* (March 18, 2007). It is followed by broadcasting *Northanger Abbey* in the following week, *Persuasion* in April 1, 2007, *Emma* in April 6, 2007 and *Pride and Prejudice* in the same year. Those novels are purely produced in the forms of novels for appreciating Jane Austen's novels by ITV in Jane Austen's seasons.

## **B. Problem statements**

The problems of the research are:

1. How is the effects of social mobility reflected at the Jane Austen's *Persuasion* novel?
2. How is the struggles for women's right to choose spouses reflected at Jane Austen's *Persuasion* novel?
3. How is the context of production reflected at Jane Austen's *Persuasion* novel?

## **C. Limitation of the Research**

Considering a broad area of the discussion, the writer of the thesis will focus the analysis of the thesis on three dimensions: the social mobility, feminist struggle in defending the right to choose spouses, relation of social background in Britain and the *Persuasion* novel's production.

First, the writer of the thesis will analyze the social background of the British society. It includes four investigation, those are the social, economic, politic, and cultural aspects. After understanding the background of the story, next, the writer wants to analyze whether the social life, especially, the British social mobility, impacts human lifestyles and thoughts or not. The shifting of social classes particularly predicted by the writer of the thesis also influences how people adapt with their new environments. The influential changes of

lifestyles which will be limited to the investigation are estates, habit of social gathering and carriages. The changing of thoughts will be restricted in investigating the characters' changing thoughts towards Frederick Wentworth, the male main character in *Persuasion* novel. It is considered to be appropriate to discuss since Frederick Wentworth is not only the example of people who experiences upward social mobility but also the centre of the reason why the female main character, Anne Elliot changes her mind to reject the other characters' persuasion in choosing her spouse.

Second, she will investigate the feminism on women's right in choosing spouses. This dimension will deepen the changing of Anne Elliot's thought toward Frederick Wentworth after the social mobility as it has been told in the previous dimension. However, it will explain further on the growing of Anne' Elliot's maturity in defending her own voice. The process of being aware of the right to choose the female main character's spouse attracts the writer of the thesis to know more deeply the gradual process of rising from her fatalism to struggle for her right as a woman whose right is equal to men. It analysis begins with describing the female main character's weak characteristics which lead her to get through a deepest regret. Next, the writer will scrutinize the strong characteristics of Anne Elliot's which lead her to rise from her deepest regret. And finally, It will also expose the female main character's efforts to defend their desire to choose their spouses of life against the social values applied in nineteenth century in which social class and power are the most important

consideration of choosing a would be spouse. The failings and strengths of Anne's will be analyzed to get to know more about the hidden power of hers which motivates her to be aware of her right to choose Frederick Wentworth as her spouse after many years pass by.

The last but not the least, the investigation of the thesis will end with an analysis of the relation between the social background of British society and the novel's production especially some elements concerned with the changes of lifestyles, thoughts and the consciousness of the female main character, Anne Elliot, in her right to choose her spouse.

#### **D. The Objectives of the Research**

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. to describe the effects of social mobility reflected at the Jane Austen's *Persuasion* novel,
2. to unearth the struggles for women's right to choose spouses reflected at Jane Austen's *Persuasion* novel,
3. to reveal the context of production reflected at Jane Austen's *Persuasion* novel.

## **E. The Significance of the Research**

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

To give contribution in understanding and intensification to the readers about the four dimensions mentioned above.

First, the writer of the thesis will investigate the background of the novel's production. It will be important for giving a clear description about the situation which influences the novel's production at that time. It will be very important for understanding more about all aspects in Britain in the nineteenth century. It is very beneficial in understanding that the production of novels specifically, and literary works generally, are connected closely to the social background of the literary production. Theoretically, it contributes to prove the recent sociological phenomena influence the productions of every literary works.

Second, she will analyze the social mobility occurred in time setting of the novel which influences the novel characters' changing of human lifestyles and thoughts in adapting with the new situation of their social class shifting. It will also try to prove that lifestyles and thoughts can also change based on the progress of human social classes. People naturally adapt with new situation and differently regard people based on their latest social classes. Being adaptive and adjustable in any circumstances are very common to survive.



Third, the thesis is also advantageous for highlighting the feminism issue of women's right in choosing their spouses. Marriages in the nineteenth century which were being arranged by parents, exposed differently in the novel, so that it will open the way for twenty-first century people to realize that the struggle for women's right to choose spouses had been done since two centuries ago. The struggle of women's rights theoretically can not only be spread out through books and formal educational institutions, furthermore it can be learnt, explored and visualized through pictures and dialogues in the novel as a part of literary art. *Persuasion* novel written by Jane Austen is believed as a means of voicing feminist ideas and social class struggle which occur in Britain at the time of production.

## 2. Practical Benefit

To give additional information, that can be very favorable for the next researchers who are interested in examining the other novel adapted novels to find out the significance of novels in highlighting certain issues on communicating criticisms on society in general by analyzing the effects of social mobility to the social class, stratification, women's rights to choose spouses specifically and women's rights in general.

Furthermore, the analysis of the characters' changes of attitudes, and thoughts will be useful for inspiring the readers of this research to be

hardworking and faithful because it explores the maturity of people is also grown up through their personal experiences.

## **F. Thesis Organization**

Based on the four dimensions which will be discussed in in the thesis, the writer will divide the thesis into eight chapters.

Chapter I is introduction. This includes background, literature review, problem statements, research limitation, research objective, research benefit, research method, and thesis organization.

Chapter II presents the review on related literature. In detail, it describes the social class structure, types and characteristics of social mobility, the feminist struggles against the ruling social values, humanistic psychological theories, and the sociological correlation of literary works' production and the ongoing phenomena in the same time of the production.

Chapter III offers the research methodology. It consists of the types of the research, the types of the data and data source, object of the research, the techniques of data collection and data analysis.

Chapter IV expounds the background of the novel's production. It will describe four aspects; politic, economic, social and cultural aspects. The politic aspects will depict the British political condition in the post

Napoleonic War around 1800's. The economic aspects will focus on the industrial revolution as the impact of the post war, the economic power of the country among other countries. The social aspects will illustrate the social class structure or class division of the British society in the nineteenth century. It also will explain more about the influence of the post war and industrial revolution to the social mobility which happens especially to the middle class citizens. The last description is the cultural aspect. It tells about the development of arts, science and technology as the impact of the politic, economic and social conditions as discussed previously. It will finally portray the effects of the social mobility to the human lifestyles, thoughts and attitudes to the new ruling social values after the war and industrial revolution.

Chapter V will scrutinize the effects of social mobility on the main characters' thoughts and lifestyles in the *Persuasion* novel. It will border the investigation on the changing of estates, carriages, lifestyles and thoughts.

Chapter VI investigates the feminist analysis on women's struggles for the right to choose their spouses in the novel as the impacts of the social mobility. It analyzes the psychological development which encourages the female main character to struggle for her right to choose her spouses.

Chapter VII will investigate the relevance of the social background of Britain in the nineteenth century and *Persuasion* novel's context of production. It will

match the description of Britain in the nineteenth century in chapter IV and the researcher's findings in chapter V and VI.

Finally, Chapter VIII will include the researcher's conclusion based on the investigation, pedagogical implication, and suggestion. This chapter will simply summarize the results and benefits of the investigation.